

# House Armed Services Committee

## DEMOCRATS

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Ike Skelton, Ranking Member

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## Iraq Takes Step Towards Future; U.S. Must Step-Up Efforts to Train Security Forces

*WASHINGTON, DC – Today Iraq held free elections to select a Democratically-elected government. Ranking Member Ike Skelton (MO) and Rep. Dan Boren (OK), both on the House Armed Services Committee, made the following statements:*

“Today, the Iraqi people made large strides in establishing a new democratic government and an optimistic new beginning. I am hopeful that this election will begin a healing process for Iraq and attract greater international support for building an independent and autonomous nation,” **Boren** commented.

“With the conclusion of successful elections today, the Iraqi people have taken another significant step to embrace their role in determining Iraq’s future,” **Skelton** said. “It is now up to the newly elected government to reach out to all Iraqis and create a sustainable political infrastructure.”

“At the same time, we must do our part to ensure that today’s political success is not short-lived. There is still a critical need for security and stability to be provided by the Iraqis themselves. This is essential for ending the insurgency and providing lasting security, and it is imperative that we continue to focus our efforts on training the Iraqi security forces,” **Skelton** concluded.

“This election set a critical precedent for a more vigorous political process to take root. Although the job in Iraq is far from done, the Iraqi people sent a clear message that they are committed to building a new nation,” **Boren** said.

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